



## Where the Wild Plants Are (AMME)

Since 2008, the Inventory and Monitoring Program has collaborated with mapping experts, vegetation ecologists, and park staff to create vegetation maps; one of the baseline inventories being completed for all parks. These vegetation community maps are intended to assist managers with all aspects of vegetation management including the important role of vegetation as habitat.

American Memorial Park (AMME) includes 30 hectares of coastal lowlands on the western shores of Saipan. It has seen extensive degradation, partly as a result of the World War II Pacific Theater campaigns.

Five of the ten vegetation associations described within the park are still dominated by native species despite the abundance of invasive plant species across the island. Importantly, this includes one of the last remaining mangle / langayao (*Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* / *Acrostichum aureum*) forests on Saipan. These special mangroves are surrounded by a mixture of native and invasive plant communities.



Mangle / langayao forests provide essential habitat for native crabs and birds, and protect coastal areas from inundating surf during tropical storms.



American Memorial Park (red/yellow) is on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This baseline vegetation map provides a valuable tool to detect future vegetation community changes with the growing threats of invasive species and sea level rise.

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**Coming Soon- AMME final vegetation maps !**